

# COLONIAL HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It is with much gratitude that I present the Colonial Heights Police Department's *Annual Report for Calendar Year 2013*. I am excited for you to see the efforts of the professional men and women of the Colonial Heights Police Department and just what they have accomplished over the course of the year. We had some amazing things happen this past year that we all should be very proud of, not only within the department but throughout our community. This report also provides historical and statistical information on the activities and programs of the Department and highlights some of the events that we actively participate in on a regular basis.

The men and women of your Police Department are committed to the mission of protecting the life, individual liberty and property of all people within the City of Colonial Heights. We strive to develop and actively pursue positive relationships with members of the community, and to foster a positive working environment for our employees.

One historic accomplishment is that we achieved accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VALEPSC) in January of 2013. This was a goal of our department for several years. What does this mean? It means that your Police Department maintains a high standard of service and professionalism to the citizens and visitors of Colonial Heights. It means that we are assessed and then audited to ensure that we are in compliance. This was the first time this has ever been done here, and the first police department to attain such distinction in the tri-cities area. Another historical achievement was securing a grant for our first-ever elementary school resource officer, who is now assigned to Lakeview Elementary School.

We are also proud to recognize the educational opportunities that have been afforded our officers. Lt. Steve Groat graduated from the National Criminal Justice Command College offered through the University of Virginia. Senior Detective Roger Santini's graduation from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy was another noteworthy achievement. We also are excited to have received first place recognition in the "Law Enforcement Challenge". This competition is coordinated by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and supported by a grant from the DMV Virginia Highway Safety Office. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in Virginia.

In keeping with our commitment to positive relationships, we joined the Tri-City Regional Strike Force, which includes Prince George, Hopewell and Petersburg Police; Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office; the Virginia State Police; and most state and federal law enforcement agencies. This first-time state initiative convenes shared resources to collectively work to improve the safety and quality of life of the citizens in the Commonwealth. This resourcefulness should benefit the citizens in our community for many years to come as we identify, target and apprehend criminal offenders who have no jurisdictional boundaries. We are proud of our relationship with our American Legion Post 284 as they regularly honor and celebrate all first responders with an annual "Law and Order" dinner. This past year, Master Detective Jason Chimera deservedly received their "Police Officer of the Year" Award. In keeping with outstanding accomplishments, Sgt. Sam Young and Officer Jared Brandeberry were recipients of the M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) award and recognized at a regional event.

In reviewing this report, I believe you will see the dedication and commitment from all members of the agency—civilians and volunteers alike. We are cognitive of the impact we make on all our visitors and to the entire business community. I appreciate the opportunity to impact the community, schools and businesses in a positive and respectful manner. Without the support from so many—the City business and civic leaders—we would not be able to do the job we do.

If there are any questions regarding the report, or requests for any additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,



Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries

Chief of Police

## **Annual Report 2013**

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# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Colonial Heights Police Department is to protect the life, individual liberty and property of all people within the City of Colonial Heights, to develop and actively pursue a positive relationship with members of the community, and to foster a positive working environment for members of the Colonial Heights Police Department.

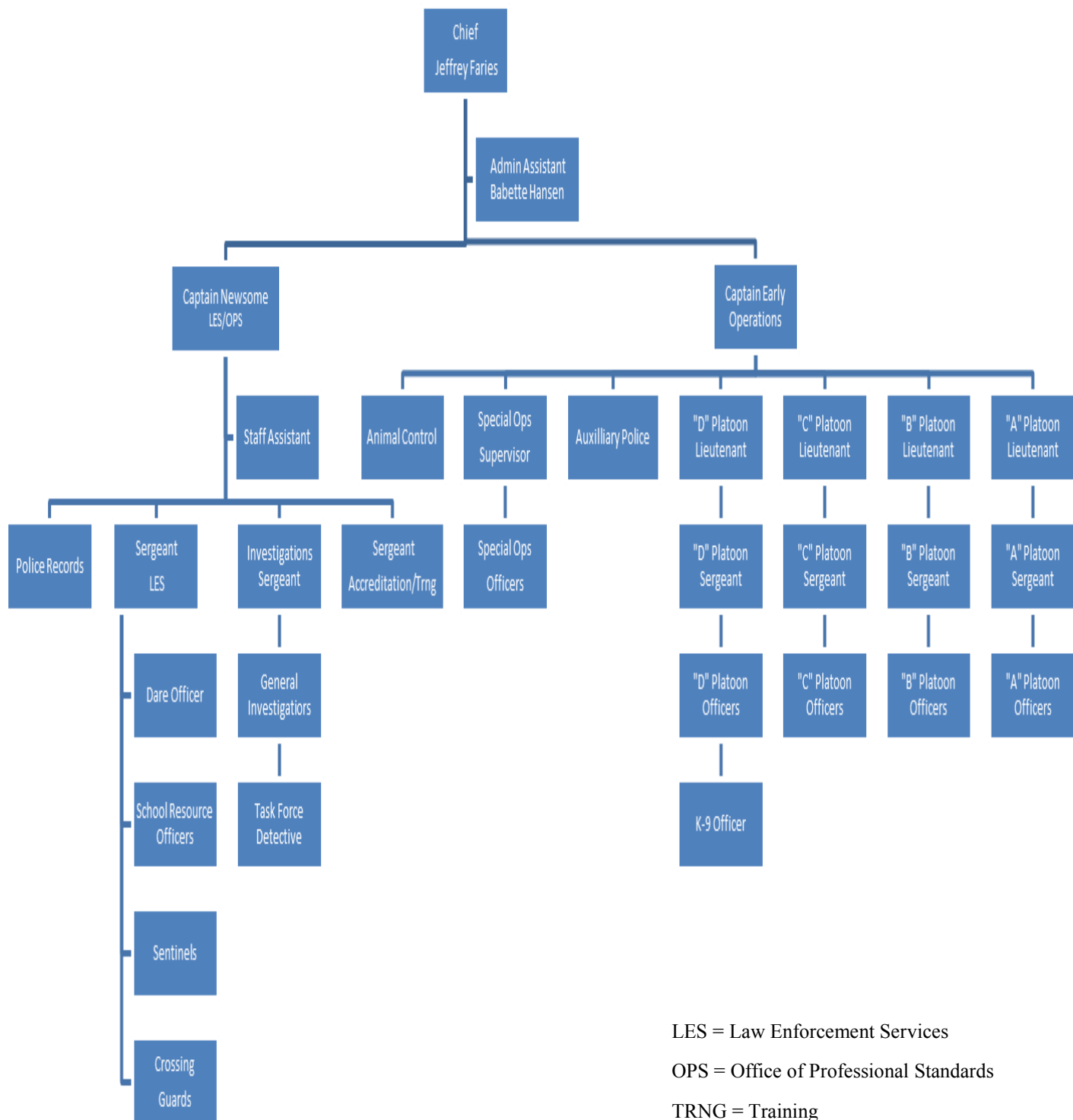
## Department Goals

The employees of the Colonial Heights Police Department are committed to accomplishing this mission through attainment of the following goals:

- Preserving individual rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States
- Effectively enforcing state and local laws and ordinances
- Aggressively investigating criminal offenses
- Providing timely apprehension of persons suspected of committing criminal acts
- Effectively managing departmental resources for optimal service delivery to all citizens
- Providing impartial, competent, and courteous service to the public without regard to race, creed, or gender

We are involved with the community we serve by:

- Providing for effective and safe performance of employee duties through optimum training and equipment
- Promoting participation of employees in the development and implementation of policy
- Encouraging employees to pursue higher education for professional growth and development
- Recognizing personnel for outstanding service and contributions to the community and department
- Developing effective employee-employer relations through emphasis on communication, rapport and trust throughout the department
- Manifesting the belief that the dedication, integrity and professionalism of its employees are the foundation of trust in the community



# Command Staff



**Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries** has been the Chief of Police for the City of Colonial Heights since December of 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology from Saint Leo University and is a graduate of the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia. In addition, he is a graduate of the prestigious F.B.I. National Academy, 212<sup>th</sup> Session, as well as the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the F.B.I. National Academy's L.E.E.D.S. Program (Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar).

Among his many work-related memberships, the Chief is a past chairman of the Central Virginia Regional Narcotics Task Force; serves his community as President of the Colonial Heights Kiwanis Club, and is a member of the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce. He is also co-chairman of the Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force. Chief Faries' membership in the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (V.A.C.P.) finds him currently sitting on two boards—the Highway Safety Committee and the Witness Protection Board. He also serves on the boards for John Tyler ASAP (Alcohol Safety Action Program), as well as Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy. He strongly supports and participates with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.). Chief Faries can be found at any of the many local fundraisers and school events held throughout the city.

**Captain W. Keith Early** commands the Operations Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Captain Early has been in Law Enforcement since 1993. He possesses a Bachelor of Science Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, and he is a graduate of both the National Criminal Justice Command College and the FBI National Academy. Captain Early oversees Uniform Patrol, Auxiliary Police, Animal Control and the Special Operations Unit.



**Captain Wayne Newsome** commands the Law Enforcement Services Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Captain Newsome has been in Law Enforcement since 1974. He is a graduate of the National Criminal Justice Command College. Captain Newsome oversees many areas in the department such as Evidence/Property Management, Records, Investigations, School Resource Officers, Crime Prevention, Accreditation and Internal Affairs.

**Sergeant Robert L Ruxer, III** is assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Sergeant Ruxer is the Public Information Officer and directly supervises the School Resource Officers and Crime Prevention. Sergeant Ruxer assists Captain Newsome with many other areas such as Property/Evidence Management and Equipment.



**Sergeant Terry Long** is assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Bureau of the Colonial Heights Police Department. Sergeant Long has been with the department since 1986 and is currently responsible for maintaining the department's accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VALEPC). Sergeant Long is also responsible for coordinating and scheduling all training requirements for department employees as required by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

## **OPERATIONS**

Several different responsibilities fall under the control of the Operations Bureau.

### **Uniform Patrol**

Consisting of 35 sworn officers on four squads, these officers provide around-the-clock police protection through 12-hour shifts. Uniform Patrol officers respond to calls for service, enforce criminal and traffic laws, conduct investigations, process evidence, testify in court and identify and address quality-of-life issues in the community.

### **Animal Control**

The Animal Control Division enforces all city and state laws and regulations relating to the control and protection of both wild and domestic animals. Animal Control also operates and maintains the Animal Shelter in accordance with state laws. Animal Control consists of one full-time Animal Control Officer (or ACO), one cross-trained police officer and one part-time Shelter Aide.

### **Special Operations Unit**

The Special Operations Unit is a specialty unit comprised of police officers who concentrate on quality-of-life crimes (disorderly conduct, public intoxication, prostitution, etc.), narcotics violations, and gang activity. The Special Operations Unit assists the Investigations Division with major crimes as needed. This unit actively solicits tips from other officers and members of the public regarding suspected criminal activity of an ongoing nature. These officers work with local, state and federal agencies and are responsible for educating the public regarding topics of narcotics and gangs.

### **Auxiliary Police and Sentinel Officers**

The volunteer division of the Colonial Heights Police Department offers citizens the opportunity to promote public safety through personal participation. Auxiliary Police and Sentinel Officers are an invaluable resource to the Department and community as they perform many supplemental police duties. They are very often called upon to direct traffic at community events such as graduation, the annual Fort Clifton Arts Festival, the annual Christmas Parade, the Special Olympics Torch Run and various other foot races held throughout the year.

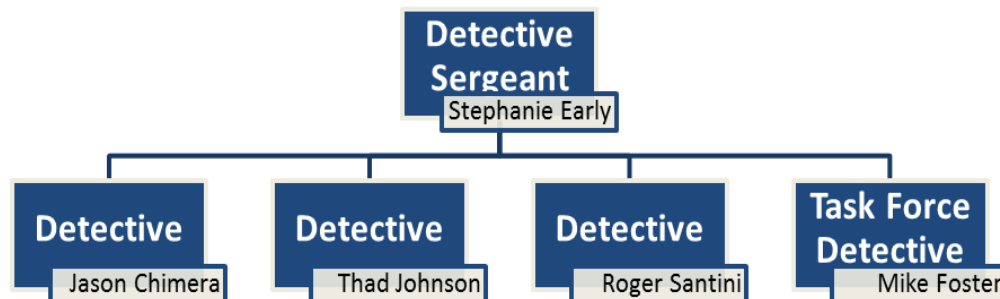


## LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

The primary task of the Law Enforcement Services Bureau is to provide support to all officers and to the command staff of the Colonial Heights Police Department. The Bureau is responsible for the Criminal Investigations Division; training; maintenance and purchasing of equipment, property and evidence and buildings and grounds. The Bureau is also responsible for inspections of officer equipment and vehicles; research and development; grants; records; and special projects. Additional responsibilities include overseeing the receptionist and all supplemental department services provided to the schools, including three School Resource Officers and a crime prevention officer who also acts as our D.A.R.E. officer.

### Investigations

The Investigations Division has the primary responsibility of conducting in-depth criminal and crime scene investigations. In addition to their primary roles, detectives are able to provide guidance to patrol officers concerning criminal investigations and crime scene processing. Detectives investigate many crimes, including narcotics violations, homicides, robberies, sexual crimes, property crimes, frauds, auto thefts, burglaries and missing persons cases. The investigations unit is also responsible for investigating and maintaining compliance on many permits such as Concealed Weapon Permits and Precious Metals Permits. The Investigations Division consists of a sergeant and three general investigators. The Central Virginia Regional Narcotics Task Force detective also falls under the supervision of the Investigations Sergeant.

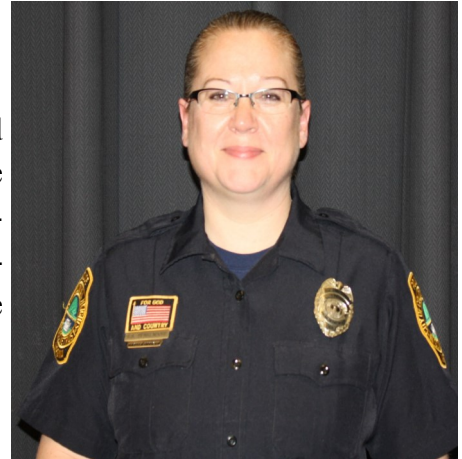




## Law Enforcement Services

### D.A.R.E./Crime Prevention

The Colonial Heights Police Department has provided a certified D.A.R.E. Officer to the city schools since 1987. Master Officer Sophie Benkendorf teaches D.A.R.E. to both elementary and middle school students. She also serves as the department's crime prevention officer, coordinating such events as Celebrate Safe Communities Night and the Special Olympics Torch Run.



D.A.R.E. Master Officer Benkendorf

### Crossing Guards

The police department employs five School Crossing Guards. Crossing Guards are responsible for the safe passage of students while entering or exiting school grounds via designated crosswalks. Our current Crossing Guards are Sue Poe, Jewel Barger, Pat Tyler, Jennifer Fletcher and Dorothy "Dottie Harvanek".

### Chaplains

The Police Chaplains are appointed by the Chief of Police to act as aides to the officers and citizens of Colonial Heights during times of personal duress and need. They strive to provide spiritual guidance, counseling and comfort in times of crisis, without attempting to moralize, evangelize, or criticize.



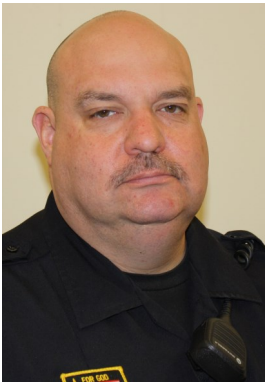
Chaplain Mike Murray



Chaplain George W. C. Lyons

## School Resources Officers

The department has employed two school resource officers, one at the High School and one at the Middle School. Their primary mission is to provide a visible and positive image to students. They are able to provide confidential counseling to students and help them make positive choices. School Resource Officers ensure a healthy school environment where both teachers and students feel safe. In the Fall of 2013, a third school resource officer was added at Lakeview Elementary School. This grant-funded position will hopefully lead to School Resource Officers at all three elementary schools.



High School SRO Dale Waldrop



Middle School SRO Scott Whirley



Lakeview SRO Dan Vilardo

## Records

Two full-time Records Specialists, Ms. Robin Kester and Mrs. Bobbi Adams, are responsible for maintaining all police information. Records Specialists process all police and Animal Control reports, traffic and criminal summonses, parking tickets, alarm citations, vehicle crash reports, property receipts and pawn records. Closed investigative case files are archived and purged as necessary. Each year, our Records Specialists process in excess of 20,000 documents.

## K-9

Narcotics dogs have been successful in finding a variety of illegal substances which have lead to the arrest and successful conviction of the numerous offenders. Additionally, canines are utilized for drug sweeps of city school buildings and grounds. They are available to assist other local police agencies with searches of schools and the execution of search warrants.



Blitz is a five year old German Shepherd

**T**here are many specialized units within the department, filled by members of both the Operations and Law Enforcement Services Bureaus. These specializations are credited towards an officer's advancement in the department's Career Development Program.

### **Honor Guard**

The Colonial Heights Police Honor Guard consists of police officers who volunteer to represent the department during functions such as parades, official ceremonies, athletic events and funerals for law enforcement officers and other public figures. They present arms each year at the annual Police Memorial Breakfast. Members wear a distinctive uniform when performing this specialized duty, and many hours of practice go into each event.

### **Crime Scene Technicians**

Crime Scene Technicians are an essential part of the Colonial Heights Police Department. They are trained to assist detectives with major crime scenes as well as investigate minor crimes on their own. Crime Scene Technicians are patrol officers who are trained by the Investigations Division, but assigned to a patrol squad. They are provided with all the tools they need to investigate most crime scenes they encounter.

### **Hostage Negotiators**

The Colonial Heights Police Department has several officers who are trained as hostage negotiators. These officers are able to utilize their natural skills, training and experience to verbally communicate with and convince a hostage taker or barricaded subject to release hostages unharmed, and surrender themselves peacefully.

### **Crash Investigators**

These officers are responsible for investigating fatal and major vehicle crashes, as well as crashes involving police department vehicles. Crash Investigators also provide expertise to patrol officers regarding the investigation of less serious crashes. Many of these investigations involve the determination of speed, crash reconstruction, interviewing witnesses, collecting and preserving forensic evidence and court testimony.

### **Child Seat Technicians**

These officers have been trained to properly inspect and install various types of child safety seats. They are available during their shift to assist citizens with safety seats. Additionally, they work several special child safety seat inspection and installation events throughout the year.

## Crime and Traffic Statistics

<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>49,164</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>47,240</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>42,790</b>

### Part I Crime Clearances

<b>Crime</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Total Violent Crimes</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Break &amp; Enter</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Total Part I Crimes</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>61%</b>

## Crime and Traffic Statistics

### Part I Crimes

<b>Crime</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Violent Crimes</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Break &amp; Enter</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>704</b>
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Property Crimes</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>780</b>
<b>Total Part I Crimes</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>817</b>

## Crime and Traffic Statistics

### Other Reported Crimes

<b>Crime</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Simple Assaults</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Assaults on Police</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Annoying Phone Calls</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bomb Threats</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Child Neglect</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Curfew Violations</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Drugs/Narcotics</b>	<b>498</b>
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	<b>469</b>
<b>Drunkenness</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Embezzlement</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Credit Card Fraud</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Fraud by Swindle</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Forgery</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Hit and Run</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Kidnapping/Abduction</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Missing Person(s)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Resist Arrest</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Pornography</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Indecent Exposure</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Stalking</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Suicide</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Trespassing</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Weapons Violations</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>All Other Offenses</b>	<b>1056</b>

## Crime and Traffic Statistics

### Persons Arrested by Offense

<b>Offense Type</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Manslaughter</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Other Assault</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>686</b>
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Forgery / Counterfeit</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Fraud</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Embezzlement</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Weapons Offenses</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Sex Offenses</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Drug Sales</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Drug Possession</b>	<b>449</b>
<b>DUI</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Alcohol Violations</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Disorderly</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Runaway</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Curfew</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1719</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4096</b>



## Crime and Traffic Statistics

### Traffic Offenses by Type

Offense	2013
DUI	193
DUI Test Refusal	44
Speeding (Radar)	2,274
Reckless (Speeding)	139
Reckless (General)	58
Habitual Offender	4
Hit and Run	34
Following too Closely	120
Fail to Keep Proper Control	13
Improper Turn	15
Improper Lane Change	85
Fail to Obey Highway Sign	521
Fail to Obey Highway Signal	106
Fail to Yield	86
Fail to Obey Siren/Lights	22
Expired or No Operator's License	475
Suspended Operator's License	748
No Safety Restraint	213
No Insurance	135
Expired or No Inspection	759
Expired or No Registration	236
Expired or No License Plates	366
Improper Equipment	527
Fail to Dim Headlights	53
Expired or No Local Tag	28
Miscellaneous	247
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,501</b>

### Traffic Crashes by Month

MONTH	2013
January	96
February	80
March	85
April	77
May	74
June	87
July	76
August	83
September	83
October	92
November	102
December	88

## Top 10 Crash Locations

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Crashes</b>
1	Parking Lots	117
2	I-95 and Temple	45
3	Conduit/Temple	40
4	Temple/Southpark	18
5	Temple/Charles Dimmock	18
6	Temple/Boulevard	16
7	Boulevard/Westover	11
8	Charles Dimmock/Southpark Blvd.	9
9	Southpark Blvd./South Avenue	9
10	Southpark Blvd./E. Roslyn	9

## 2013 Animal Control Statistics

<b>Animal Complaints</b>	<b>1,541</b>
Impounded Animals	632
Animal Bites	6
Wildlife Complaints	14
Summonses Issued	72
Animals Adopted	240
Animals Returned to Owner	118

# 2013 Highlights

## New Police Officers



**Hermon P.J. Calhoun III** - 24 years old; previously a Virginia Commonwealth University Police Officer since 2010; Hanover High School graduate with college credits from VCU; resides in Henrico County.

**Thomas “Quinn” Pasi** - 24 years old; previously with Petersburg Bureau of Police since 2010; Powhatan High School graduate with college credits from VCU; resides in Powhatan with his wife and two daughters.

**William T. Waldrep (Will)** – 32 years old; previously with Petersburg Bureau of Police; 8 years’ experience; graduated from Oceana High School in Michigan; has college credits from Liberty University; served as a U.S. Marine; resides in Dinwiddie County with his wife and three children.



**Rodney A. Woodson** – 38 years old; previously with Prince George County Police Department; nine years of police experience; attended Highland Springs High School; holds a Bachelor’s Degree and is currently working on his Masters from Liberty University, U.S. Marine and still serves his country in the Reserves, he resides in Henrico County with his wife and their two children.

# 2013 Highlights

**Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries, Chief of Police**  
Colonial Heights Police Department  
100 A Highland Avenue  
Colonial Heights, Va. 23834  
(804) 520-9300



## Media Release

**Groat Graduates from National Criminal Justice Command College**

**Santini Graduates from Forensic Science Academy**



Lieutenant Steve Groat



Colonel Jeffrey Faries, Detective Roger Santini, Linda C. Jackson

Lieutenant Steve Groat recently graduated from the 8th Session of the University of Virginia National Criminal Justice Command College. The NCJCC is a 10 – week intense training program that is targeted to mid-upper level law enforcement supervisors in state, county, or municipal agencies. The Command College is uniquely designed to provide an integrated, cutting-edge approach to criminal justice education through a framework of leadership and collaboration. Lieutenant Groat was one of twenty one graduates that were selected from the Commonwealth of Virginia to attend. Their curriculum and topics of instruction included leadership, management issues, forensic science, collaboration and negotiation and legal issues. Lieutenant Groat joins Captain William “Keith” Early, Captain Wayne Newsome, Lt. Dann Ferguson and Lt. William Anspach as alumni of the program.

The Department would also like to announce the recent graduation of Detective Roger Santini from the 84<sup>th</sup> session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy. The objective of the Academy is advanced training of qualified crime scene search officers. Law enforcement personnel learn to properly recognize, document, collect and preserve items of physical evidence found at crime scenes for laboratory examination. The course provides students with the necessary background information and practical application techniques which, when coupled with the student’s previous experience, permit maximum utilization of forensic science in the apprehension and prosecution of criminals in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[www.colonialheightsva.gov](http://www.colonialheightsva.gov)

# 2013 Highlights

## Media Release

### Colonial Heights Police Department

*An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries, Chief of Police

100 A Highland Avenue

Colonial Heights, VA 23934 (804-520-9300)

[www.colonialheightsva.gov](http://www.colonialheightsva.gov)



## Colonial Heights Police Department Awarded First Place in Law Enforcement Challenge

The Colonial Heights Police Department is pleased to announce its first place finish in the Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge. The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. It is coordinated by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and is supported by a grant from the DMV Virginia Highway Safety Office with additional support from private entities. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in Virginia. The Department competed against other municipal agencies statewide that employed 26-50 officers.

The Law Enforcement Challenge program, which is celebrating its twenty-fourth year in Virginia promotes professionalism in traffic safety enforcement and encourages agencies to share best practices and programs with each other. The awards are based on entries prepared by the participating agencies that highlight their traffic safety education and enforcement activities in the past calendar year. Judges award points to the agencies in the six areas that comprise a comprehensive traffic safety program: an agency's policies and guidelines, training of officers, incentives and recognition, public information and education, enforcement, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the agency's efforts.



Pictured above are (from left): Sergeant R. L. Ruxer, Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries and Staunton, Virginia Police Chief James E. Williams (President of VACP)

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Public Information Officer: Sergeant Robert L Ruxer III (804)-520-9306 [ruxerr@colonialheightsva.gov](mailto:ruxerr@colonialheightsva.gov)



# 2013 Highlights



## Media Release Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force

For Further Information Contact:

Chief John Keohane, Hopewell Police (804) 541-2282  
Chief Jeff Faries, Colonial Heights Police (804) 520-9311

Release Number: 2013-072313

July 23, 2013

**MEDIA EMBARGO UNTIL 2:30 PM  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013**

**\*\* New Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force launches with Operation Summer Splash \*\***

On July 23, 2013, the newly formed Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force began their first initiative, Operation Summer Splash, a two-day joint operation to round-up fugitives within the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg, and the counties of Prince George and Dinwiddie.

This first initiative of the Strike Force is being spearheaded by the U.S. Marshals Service. Other Strike Force Agency partners in this operation are Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Prince George County Police, Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Strike Force also includes the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), United States Attorney's Office, Commonwealth's Attorneys from the cities of Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Hopewell and the counties of Prince George and Dinwiddie, Virginia Attorney General's Office, Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force is a pilot program that serves as a new element of the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety's business model. This model uses the platform to regionally convene State, Federal, and local public safety resources to collectively work to further improve the safety and quality of life of the citizens of the Commonwealth. Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker chose the tri-cities area for this model initiative and convened several planning meetings with the local partners in order to launch this new comprehensive regional partnership.

At the culmination of the operation, the Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force will hold a press conference. At that media event, members of the Strike Force will be present to discuss the formation, mission, and focus of the newly formed partnership, as well as the results of the first operation.

## Media Advisory

Please embargo this release until you arrive at the media staging area for the press conference or until after 2:30 p.m. on July 24, 2013.

## Press Conference Details:

WHO: Tri-Cities Regional Strike Force

WHEN: 2:30 pm – Wednesday, July 24, 2013

WHERE: Colonial Heights Police Department Parking Lot adjacent to the mobile command posts being utilized for this operation.

Thank you all in advance for your assistance in handling this active operation.



# 2013 Highlights



Master Detective Jason Chimera was awarded the American Legion “Police Officer of the Year” Award



Colonial Heights Police had two recipients of the 2012 M.A.D.D. awards—Sgt. Sam Young and Officer Jared Brandeberry are pictured above with Chief Jeffrey Faries



# 2013 Highlights

In 2013, The Colonial Heights Police Department said goodbye to a dedicated employee. Master Officer Derek Pattison retired after over 27 years in law enforcement, all with the Colonial Heights Police Department. Derek will continue his service to our community as an Auxiliary officer.



## **Training**

**I**n 2013, Officers with the Colonial Heights Police Department attended 2,332 hours of in-service training. These training hours are a combination of in-house training, and outside training at both Crater Criminal Justice Academy and agencies such as the Department of Forensic Science.

## **Accreditation**

**T**he Colonial Heights Police Department was proud to achieve accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VALEPSC) in January of 2013. This is an ongoing process that requires the department to maintain a high standard of service and professionalism to the citizens of Colonial Heights. Sergeant Terry Long oversees the office of accreditation and must continuously update approximately 177 folders to show proof of compliance in the program. The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission does an annual audit to ensure that our agency is in compliance and will do a full reassessment of the agency in 2017.



# In Memory



## **Auxiliary Lieutenant J. Dean Miller**

**End of Watch April 1, 2013**

Always available to help those in need—a true example of what it means to serve. Dean will be greatly missed, but will forever remain a member of our police family.